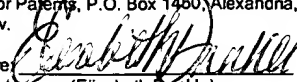


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Dated: October 26, 2004

Signature

  
(Elisabeth Dunkle)

Docket No.: 49481(70551)  
(PATENT)

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of:  
Masatsugu Hatanaka et al.

Application No.: 09/471,829

Filed: December 23, 1999

For: THICKNESS MEASUREMENT  
APPARATUS OF THIN FILM USING  
LIGHT INTERFERENCE METHOD



Confirmation No.: 8004

Art Unit: 2877

Examiner: S. A. Turner

**SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (IDS)**

MS Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the reference(s) listed on the attached PTO/SB/08. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the references be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

No fee is believed to be due in connection with the filing of this communication. This is because this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action after the filing of a Request for Continued Examination under 37 CFR 1.114 (37 CFR 1.97(b)(4)) and because the undersigned hereby certifies that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. In this instance, the foreign patent office communication is a September 28, 2004 office action that was issued in connection with Japanese counterpart application H11-195925.

The September 28, 2004 Japanese office action is identified as "CA" on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. A copy of the September 28, 2004 Japanese office action is enclosed, as is a copy of an English language translation thereof.

The September 28, 2004 Japanese office action lists four cited references (see page 3 of office action and page 4 of translation). Three of these references (i.e., Japanese Patent Laying-Open Nos. 11-160030, 61-165608, and 63-044106) are already of record in connection with this application. Thus, these previously cited references are not listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449, and additional copies thereof are not enclosed herein. However, one reference (i.e., Japanese Patent Laying-Open No. 08-301433) that is cited in the September 28, 2004 Japanese office action is not yet of record in this application. Thus, the 08-301433 reference is identified as "BA" on the enclosed Form PTO-1449, and a copy thereof is enclosed herein. Also enclosed is an English language abstract for the 08-301433 reference listing the "Purpose" and "Constitution" for the reference.

The Director is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the fees filed, asserted to be filed or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this firm) to our Deposit Account No. 04-1105, under Order No. 49481(70551). A duplicate copy of this paper is enclosed.

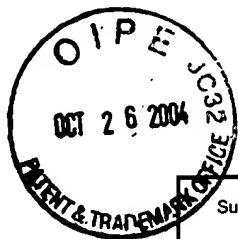
Dated: October 26, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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PTO/SB/08a/b (08-03)

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<b>Substitute for form 1449A/B/PTO</b>  <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b>  (Use as many sheets as necessary)				<b>Complete if Known</b>	
				Application Number	09/471,829-Conf. #8004
				Filing Date	December 23, 1999
				First Named Inventor	Masatsugu Hatanaka
				Art Unit	2877
				Examiner Name	S. A. Turner
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number	49481(70551)

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T <sup>6</sup>
		Country Code <sup>3</sup> -Number <sup>4</sup> -Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)				
	BA	JP-08-301433	11-19-1996			

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. <sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
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	CA	Office Action and English language translation of the Office Action. The Office Action was mailed on September 28, 2004 in connection with the counterpart Japanese Patent Application No. H11-195925.	

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<sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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483558



10-28-04

GP2877

*h*

Application No. (if known): 09/471,829

Attorney Docket No.: 49481(70551)

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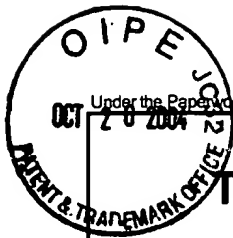
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<b>TRANSMITTAL FORM</b>  (to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)		Application Number	09/471,829-Conf. #8004
		Filing Date	December 23, 1999
		First Named Inventor	Masatsugu Hatanaka
		Art Unit	2877
		Examiner Name	S. A. Turner
Total Number of Pages in This Submission	4	Attorney Docket Number	49481(70551)

ENCLOSURES (Check all that apply)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form	<input type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> After Allowance Communication to TC
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Signature			
Printed name	Richard J. Roos		
Date	October 26, 2004	Reg. No.	45,053

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